



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Sediment Quality Objectives – Meetings scheduled for new standards -

Sediment quality objectives function in a similar fashion to water quality objectives and are used to address contaminated sediment sites. Many of these sites are presumed to be contaminated by past or ongoing municipal runoff and so municipal storm water programs are likely to be affected.

The State Board already has sediment guidelines which are used for 303(d) listing purposes. These existing guidelines are based on available studies and guidelines used by others where there is evidence that the guidelines are predictive of sediment toxicity. The new sediment objectives take a more sophisticated approach and are based on multiple lines of evidence. (See NewsFlash 06-35) Future sediment monitoring programs will need to conform to the adopted approach for sediment evaluation.

The purpose of these meetings is to seek input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the draft environmental document prepared to support the proposed sediment quality objectives and implementation policy. Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 23, in San Diego, and Nov. 8, in Oakland. The comment deadline is Nov. 16.

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/btcp/sediment.html>

Sediment Master Plan – Status report posted – Sediment (the non-contaminated kind) is important for maintaining coastal beaches, however, the amount of sediment reaching the coast has decreased due to dams and in some cases due to development. (Development can cause short-term increases and long-term declines in sediment loading.) A recent report by USGS indicates that two thirds of California's beaches are eroding with Central California showing the highest percentage of erosion. USGS Study: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1219/>

In other areas, however, sediment is too abundant due to construction projects on or near the coast. The purpose of the California Coastal Sediment Master Plan (CSMP) is to manage the sediment as a resource by developing a "Regional Sediment Management" approach. In this approach, excess sediment from construction projects could be used for beach or shoreline replenishment. CSMP report: http://www.dbw.ca.gov/csmw/PDF/SMPSR_status_report.pdf

Los Angeles Storm Water Permit – Appeals Court requires environmental documentation

– The long-running litigation brought by 32 LA area cities, the county, and others against the MS4 storm water permit may be nearing an end. A California Appeals Court ruled against the challengers on most points but did require the Los Angeles Regional Board to set aside the 2001 permit and conduct a limited California Environmental Quality Act review.

Decision: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/B184034.PDF>

Webcast - Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management: Design, Construction and Maintenance

- October 26, 2006; 10:00am to 12:30pm.

More information and signup: <http://www.iwla.org/index.php?id=169>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>